

61659 - Master's Dissertation

Información del Plan Docente

Academic Year	2016/17
Academic center	103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
Degree	552 - Master's in Advanced Studies in English-language Literature and Cinema
ECTS	15.0
Course	1
Period	Second semester
Subject Type	Master Final Project
Module	---

1. Basic info

1.1. Recommendations to take this course

The Master Thesis can be supervised by any member of the teaching staff in the Programme. Students need to pass the six (three compulsory, three optional) courses and obtain a minimum of 45 credits in order to submit their dissertation.

1.2. Activities and key dates for the course

Once s/he has finished the courses and written the thesis, the student is expected to defend it in a public session. The thesis defence will take place on one of the four optional dates yearly scheduled by the Faculty.

2. Initiation

2.1. Learning outcomes that define the subject

The student, in order to pass the course, will have to show her/his competence in the following skills:

To search for original ideas/hypotheses for the writing of a research project in the field of English Studies

To apply the knowledge acquired to solve problems in other contexts related to his/her field of study

To relate and integrate learnt concepts in order to make sound judgements

To communicate his/her conclusions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences in clear English

To develop learning skills that will allow him/her to keep on learning in an autonomous way

To use academic English (oral and written) at an advanced level

To apply analytical and critical methodology at an advanced level

61659 - Master's Dissertation

To use bibliographical sources at an advanced level

To use computer tools at an advanced level

To apply different strategies for the search, analysis, synthesis and spreading of information

To carry out critical analyses of English texts using the appropriate theoretical approaches

To solve problems and take decisions in order to carry out a thorough research project

To understand and relate the main concepts from different literary/filmic critical approaches

To apply different critical and theoretical frameworks to the analysis of literary/filmic texts correctly

To explain the relevance of the critical concepts used for the study of the literary/filmic text under analysis

To use the literary/filmic text under analysis as the main source of textual information and interpretation

To be aware of the necessarily contingent nature of a specific textual approach and of the possibility of providing different interpretations of literary/filmic English texts

To establish connections between different critical concepts and theoretical frameworks relevant for the analysis of literary/filmic English texts

2.2.Introduction

Brief presentation of the course

The Master Thesis is the culmination of the Master courses. Students are expected to write a 20,000-word dissertation in English, on an issue related to any of the two subject areas included in the Master's programme, under the supervision of one of the lecturers in the programme. The thesis, which must be original and well researched, must include an introduction, a methodological approach, a development of the initial hypothesis, a conclusion, a table of contents, and a reference list. The reference system employed must be consistent throughout.

3.Context and competences

3.1.Goals

The expected results of the course respond to the following general aims

The Master Thesis is scheduled as the most relevant task in the Master degree, its main aim being to validate the competences the candidate has acquired in the previous courses of the Programme. Emphasis is put on the student's skills to handle theoretical frames, to use a useful methodology and to develop and defend a sustainable and extensive piece of research.

3.2.Context and meaning of the subject in the degree

61659 - Master's Dissertation

The Master Thesis represents the final academic goal in the degree. Once successfully passed, students qualify as PhD candidates or may choose to pursue other professional aims in the field of basic or applied research.

3.3.Competences

After completing the course, the student will be competent in the following skills:

CB6: To acquire enough knowledge to be original when developing and applying new ideas in a research context

CB7: To use the acquired knowledge in order to solve problems in new and wider interdisciplinary contexts related to his/her field of study

CB8: To integrate what has been learnt in order to interpret the data found and to make sound judgements

CB9: To communicate his/her conclusions (together with the reasons that led him/her to reach them) to both specialised and non-specialised audiences in clear English

CB10: To acquire the learning skills that will allow him/her to keep on learning in an autonomous way

CT1: Capacity to use academic (oral and written) English at an advanced level

CT2: Capacity to be methodologically rigorous

CT3: Capacity to use bibliographical sources at an advanced level

CT4: Capacity to use computer tools at an advanced level

CT5: Capacity to search, analyse, synthesise and disseminate information at an advanced level

CT6: Capacity to make critical judgements at an advanced level

CT7: Capacity to solve problems and take decisions to carry out a thorough academic work

CE1: Capacity to understand and assimilate the fundamental concepts of different critical literary/filmic approaches

CE2: Capacity to apply critical concepts and theoretical frameworks to the analysis of a literary/filmic text correctly

CE3: Capacity to argue the relevance of the critical concepts used in the study of the literary/filmic text under analysis

CE4: Capacity to use the literary/filmic text as the main source of textual information and interpretation

CE5: Capacity to understand the necessarily contingent nature of a specific textual approach and to acknowledge the possibility of offering different interpretations of literary/filmic texts in English

61659 - Master's Dissertation

CE6: Capacity to establish connections between different critical concepts and/or theoretical frameworks relevant for the analysis of literary/filmic texts

3.4.Importance of learning outcomes

The aims proposed in this subject are crucial to provide students with enough knowledge for them to conduct a successful research project in the field of English Studies. The capacity to develop and apply original ideas in an academic and research context is also fundamental for conducting research in the field of literary and filmic studies in English. Furthermore, specific skills, such as the capacity to relate concepts starting from different themes, make use of complex information, reach relevant conclusions making use of the English language clearly and adequately (both for a specialised and a non-specialised audience), and be able to develop a research line in an autonomous way are crucial skills for the researcher to be.

4.Evaluation

The student will prove that he/she has achieved the expected learning results by means of the following assessment tasks:

Students are expected to write a 20,000-word dissertation in English on an issue related to any of the three subject areas included in the Master's programme, under the supervision of one of the lecturers in the programme. The thesis, which must be original and well researched, must include an introduction, a methodological approach, a development of the initial hypothesis, a conclusion, a table of contents, and a reference list. The reference system employed must be consistent throughout.

The thesis draft will be periodically evaluated by the supervisor till s/he decides that it is ready for evaluation in a public session.

These guidelines apply to both the first and the second official announcements.

First Official Announcement:

Students are expected to write a 20,000-word dissertation in English on an issue related to any of the two subject areas included in the Master's programme, under the supervision of one of the lecturers in the programme. The thesis, which must be original and well researched, must include an introduction, a methodological approach, a development of the initial hypothesis, a conclusion, a table of contents, and a reference list. The reference system employed must be consistent throughout.

The thesis draft will be periodically evaluated by the supervisor till s/he decides that it is ready for evaluation in a public session.

These guidelines apply to both the first and the second official announcements.

The thesis will be assessed by a Committee of three staff members of the Master Programme and will be defended by the candidate in a public session. The Committee will evaluate the following aspects in the work:

- 1) The structure of the dissertation
- 2) Its methodology
- 3) The effective use of a relevant theoretical framework
- 4) The presentation and development of a relevant initial hypothesis
- 5) The choice and use of a valid bibliography
- 6) The correct use of English
- 7) The academic/professional relevance of its results

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61659 - Master's Dissertation

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- 6) The correct use of English
- 7) The academic/professional relevance of its results

Assessment Criteria :

The Committee will evaluate the following aspects in the work:

- 1) The methodology used
- 2) The effective use of a relevant theoretical framework
- 3) The presentation and development of a relevant initial hypothesis
- 4) The academic/professional relevance of its results
- 5) The choice and use of a valid bibliography
- 6) The capacity to present and debate the thesis during the viva
- 7) The correct use of English

Elaboration and writing of the Master Thesis = 80%; Defence and oral presentation of the Master Thesis = 20%

5.Activities and resources

5.1.General methodological presentation

The learning process that has been designed for this course is based on the following activities:

The student is expected to work in an autonomous way. The student will choose a topic for discussion for his/her research project. The supervisor will instruct her/his tutee about possible topics, methodology and critical approaches for the writing of the thesis. The research topic must be directly related to the topics taught by the supervisor in the Master. With the help of the supervisor, the student is expected to write the thesis using an adequate theoretical and methodological framework and reaching pertinent conclusions.

5.2.Learning activities

The programme offered to the students to help them achieve the learning results includes the following activities :

INDIVIDUAL WORK (290 hours):

Revision of critical concepts explained in the tutorials, reading of bibliography, individual reading and textual analysis of

61659 - Master's Dissertation

the selected texts.

Individual work:

Revision of critical concepts explained in the tutorials, reading of bibliography, individual reading and textual analysis of the selected texts.

SUPERVISION AND TUTORIALS (30 hours, Summer period: from June to September)

A) Choice of topic and bibliography (8 hours): At this first stage, the supervisor advises the student on methodological aspects, bibliography and selected topics for the textual analysis, offering a number of preliminary readings and suggesting a number of research topics.

B) Structuring the research project (2 hours): At this stage the student hands in a general plan of the dissertation to her/his supervisor, who will make recommendations on further readings and rewrites.

C) Revision of dissertation's draft (10 hours): At this stage, the student will have finished the first draft. The supervisor will make suggestions for further rewrites.

D) Second draft revision and public defence (10 hours): At this final stage, the supervisor reads the second draft of the thesis and helps the student to write the public defence of the Thesis

2

Supervision and tutorials:

A) Choice of topic and bibliography: At this first stage, the supervisor advises the student on methodological aspects, bibliography and selected topics for the textual analysis, offering a number of preliminary readings and suggesting a number of research topics.

B) Structuring the research project: At this stage the student hands in a general plan of the dissertation to her/his supervisor, who will make recommendations on further readings and rewrites.

C) Revision of dissertation's draft: At this stage, the student will have finished the first draft. The supervisor will make suggestions for further rewrites.

D) Second draft revision and public defence: At this final stage, the supervisor reads the second draft of the thesis and helps the student to write the public defence of the Thesis.

THESIS DRAFTS AND DEFENSE (75 hours)

Writing and corrections of the dissertation's drafts. Writing of the dissertation's public defense. Defense.

Thesis Drafts and Defence:

Writing and corrections of the dissertation's drafts. Writing of the dissertation's public defence. Defence.

5.3.Program

There is no specific Program here, because each Master Thesis will have its own characteristics and will be different from the others.

5.4.Planning and scheduling

Calendar of actual sessions and presentation of works

The different academic stages for writing the dissertation are detailed above. Individual tuition will take place at the supervisor's office.

Once the Master Thesis is completed, the candidate is requested to distribute copies of it to the three members of the

61659 - Master's Dissertation

Committee who will evaluate the work. Copies should reach the Committee at least 15 days before the arranged public session for the thesis defense.

The different academic stages for writing the dissertation are detailed above. Individual tuition will take place at the supervisor's office.

Once the Master Thesis is completed, the candidate is requested to distribute copies of it to the three members of the Committee who will evaluate the work. Copies should reach the Committee at least 15 days before the arranged public session for the thesis defence.

Deadline for the submission of the Master Thesis: as per exam schedule of the Faculty.

5.5.Bibliography and recommended resources

There is no specific bibliography here.